

Evaluating Accuracy



- STOP and THINK!
- Cross check factual data with at least three other sources
- Ask probing questions:
 - What claims is the author making?
 - What evidence do I find elsewhere to support those claims?
 - What evidence do I find elsewhere to refute those claims?
- Consider the context of where you find the evidence
- The challenge of confirming vs. disconfirming

-- Adapted from IMSA 21st Century Information Fluency Project (2007)

Evaluating Reliability



- Moving beyond surface level checks (e.g., I can email the author; glance at the web address - it's a .org or it's a .com)
- Actively investigate the authority of the author within the website
- Consider other work from the author
- Does it pass Snopes.com?
- THINK and CHECK activity
 - *California's Velcro Crop Under Challenge*



Think & Check Activity

THINK		CHECK
Does this <i>sound</i> like it makes sense?	➡	Be skeptical and ask around
Where else can I look?	➡	Conduct an Internet search using keywords from the topic in quotation marks or look in a book
Who created the website and for what purpose?	➡	Explore the About Us link with a critical eye
Who is the author?	➡	Do an Internet search using the author's name in quotation marks
Who is linking to the site?	➡	Type Link: URL (of the webpage in question) into the search box

Evaluating Bias/Point of View



- Dealing with advertising
- Anticipating bias in search results
- Recognizing hidden agendas
 - What are their motives?
 - Who is their audience? Who might they offend?
- Considering multiple perspectives

Recognizing hidden agendas

First: Explore the three links below to learn more about what different people think about how Iditarod mushers treat their sled dogs.

- A. Ray Redington's Dog Care for the Iditarod Musher
 B. Racing for the Grave: The Iditarod's Trail of Dog Deaths
 C. Is the Iditarod for the Dogs?

Level 1: Detecting
Fact Vs. Opinion

1. In the box below, post the address of the site you think has the STRONGEST opinions about the use of sled dogs in the Iditarod.
2. Tell whether you think the author of this site is **for** or **against** competitively racing sled dogs.
3. Select a quote and explain how it is an example of how the author shares his/her strong opinions.

Level 2: Detecting Bias &
Considering the Author

Second:

4. In the box below, post the address of the site (A, B, or C) you think gives both sides of the issue about the treatment of Iditarod sled dogs?
5. Who are the two people whose opinions are given in this article?
6. What do you think would make each person have that opinion?



Critical Evaluation on the Internet

● What's missing in the text?

- Equal access to non-paying sources of information in search engine results or on websites
- Professional editorial checks of accuracy, validity, and reliability
- Conventional standards for identifying authors and publishers

● What's missing in our instruction?



Explicit instruction and repeated opportunities to view, interact with, question, compare, critique, analyze, and even create "questionable information" to ensure our students are prepared for their futures in an online world.
